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busily waiting for a boat to sail for Juan Fernandez Island. The sailing was scheduled for a week ago, but schedules are often broken, one soon discovers here. We spent a month at Lake Titicaca in the Peruvian Andes, and noticed with interest the slower movement and long duration of the South American earthquake as compared with our California ones. We were sitting at the skinning table working on a bird skin, and discussed the quake during the movement as well as noting some movement in the stove pipe and trees near the window. The same "terremoto" shook things and towns much harder to the north and west of us.

Going out in the patio the first morning after our arrival I was greatly surprised to see a California Quail in a large cage with several other birds. A couple of Cinnamon Teal and three or four native teal were in another cage, while a mudhen and a couple of tinamous had the liberty of the yard, and had been kept there for over a year the owner said. It called up scenes in the Joaquin to see Cinnamon Teal sitting about among the reeds in the lake. The black-birds acted the same way as do the redwings, but their wings were yellow patched instead of red.

The flamingos still interest me with their adaptability. Skirting the shores of the lake the morning we left, ice was seen along the edge and at one place we flushed four flamingos as the train rounded a point. They had been getting a cold breakfast in the shallow water. In Pisco Bay, where sea-birds swarm, it enlightened me to see flamingos standing along the bay shore surrounded by pelicans, boobies and gulls, while cormorants fished close by them, and Surf-birds, with smaller shore-birds, ran about their legs.

Glancing out of the window here, I see the lookout barrel on the masthead of a whaler close by, in the bay, and I wonder that anyone could ever have discredited the belief in the efficacy of whaling stations as desirable collecting points for Tubinares.

Hiring a boat yesterday, I rowed out past steamers and warships into the open ocean. The last warship had been passed less than a mile when a bunch of a dozen albatrosses were approached, sitting on the water. Some I might have killed with the auxiliary barrel; others sat about and mingled with the Sooty Shearwaters in their endless southern flight. Giant Fulmars fought with each other and the gulls at the city dump but a few feet from shore; while the grayish Fulmars reminding one so much of the Pacific bird, acted as our northern ones do at Monterey.

I often think of the modest request for a series of Skuas after I'd turned in a couple

at Monterey. Here they fly about the harbors and sit on the water just to leeward, usually, of the gulls. One yesterday was picking himself on a low-lying buoy, while the gulls, closely resembling the Western, perched above on a barge.

Climbing up a canyon in the back part of town the other day to test some auxiliary shells, I heard the call of the California Quail in the brush. This canyon might have been matched in southern California with the surroundings, though most of the birds differed somewhat. Particularly, the only hummer seen was one of the giant fellows resembling a Swift in flight, and in its call reminding me instantly of the squeak of the rat I heard caught in a trap in the room overhead the night before! One sees many birds caged here, and some of them are nice singers. A couple of large, brightly marked plover running loose in a small garden we admired greatly. Sincerely,

R. H. BECK.

*Valparaiso, Chile, November 9, 1913.*

#### PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED.

THE OREGON SPORTSMAN. Published monthly under the direction of WILLIAM L. FINLEY, State Game Warden, 806-7-8 Yeon Building, Portland, Oregon. Price 5 cents a copy, 50 cents a year.

When we heard of a state game warden in Oregon who believed in education rather than police patrol as a means of enforcing game laws, we wondered what methods would be used. Up to the present time we have been made acquainted with two methods, both of which are timely and will without doubt meet with great success. The first is a series of lectures on game given throughout the state. The second is a new publication called "The Oregon Sportsman," which is now four months old, the first number having appeared in September, 1913.

The particularly noticeable characteristics of this new publication and which are bound to make it successful are, first, the attractive cover, usually a reproduction of a photograph of some game animal or bird in the wild; second, the catchy headings and "readableness" of the text, and third, the small cost.

The contents of each number is distributed under three main headings—editorials, general notes, and notes from counties. An occasional short article is contributed, and the first number contained a report of the hunting and fishing licenses sold. An idea of the editorial column can be had from the following gleaned from the first number: "The State Board of Fish and Game Commissioners is striving to make fishing and hunt-

ing important resources of Oregon. There is no reason why the State should not use her wild birds and animals as a prudent farmer protects and uses his flocks and herds. Game protection and game propagation is a business proposition not only for the man who lives in the city, but for the farmer, the fruit grower and the timber man. Game laws and game protection cannot be made effective until we get the real interest of the farmers, homesteaders, and other land owners throughout the state.

"Game protection is not a political question. Nor is it entirely a legal question. It has an economic aspect, and above all it requires educational work."

The November number cites five instances of accidental shooting during the past deer season and gives the following warning to hunters: "Hunters should never shoot at moving brush, leaves or grass with the expectation of killing game. It is dangerous, for the moving object is likely to be a man. Never shoot at any object until you are absolutely positive of identification." The main article of this issue is entitled "Refuges for wild birds and animals." Thus it can be seen that the contents of "The Oregon Sportsman" is of the eminently appropriate sort.

But setting aside the material itself, it is the idea embodied that appeals to the reviewer; for he believes that there can be no consistent obedience to the law without a knowledge of the necessity for the law and some sympathy for it. Mr. Finley, State Game Warden of Oregon, by means of education, is laying a sure and sound foundation not only for the automatic enforcement of game laws but for the conservation of Oregon's natural resources.—H. C. BRYANT.

SOME BIRDS OF THE FRESNO DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA. By JOHN G. TYLER (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 9, Oct. 1, 1913, pp. 1-114).

The Pacific Coast Avifauna series, published by the Cooper Ornithological Club, has just received another addition to its already long list of valuable papers published under that head. Number 9 of this series is a non-technical paper dealing purely with life histories and the manner of occurrence in the region of the species treated.

One hundred and sixty-one species are listed, evidently not a complete catalogue of the birds of the region, as a number of species not included are known at least to migrate through the state in general, and undoubtedly will be found eventually in the Fresno region. Accounts are well written and accurate, the description of flights of

Turkey Buzzards being a good example of the scores of vivid pictures of common phases of the lives of familiar birds, things recognizable at once to all bird students, and yet very seldom put into print.

The author adheres closely to the usages of the 1910 edition of the A. O. U. *Check-List*, evidently wishing to avoid discussion of the technicalities of nomenclature and classification, and to make his contribution purely one of the life-histories of birds. The only exception noted is his treatment of the San Joaquin Valley Wren, for which he uses the name *drymoeucus*, rather than include it under *charienturus*, as in the *Check-List*.

In the case of the red-breasted Sapsucker the binomial *Sphyrapicus ruber* is used instead of the trinomial *S. ruber ruber*, the uniform usage throughout the remainder of the paper, apparently as a passive protest against the treatment accorded this species in the *Check-List*, which, however, through the policy adopted in the paper, he feels obliged to follow. In the cases of the Red-breasted Sapsucker, Brown Towhee and Blue Grosbeak, although the *Check-List* name is the one used, brief footnotes, or else a statement in the text, contain references to dissenting opinions.

The paper will serve as a striking example of the excellent work that can be done by a maximum amount of careful and accurate bird observation, with a minimum of bird killing. The identifications are carefully made, nevertheless, and where there was doubt specimens were collected and submitted to experts. The small amount of collecting is reflected, however, in the rather uneven balance of certain subspecies, and also in the absence from the list of some birds, which, with hardly a doubt occur in the general region. Thus the occurrence of *Melospiza lincolni striata*, *Passerella iliaca schistacea*, and *Hylocichla guttata nanus*, together with the absence of *Melospiza lincolni lincolni*, *Passerella iliaca megarhyncha*, and *Hylocichla guttata guttata*, if truly indicative of conditions, is a rather remarkable state of affairs deserving of careful investigation. No doubt is meant to be cast upon the accuracy of the identification of the specimens collected, but it seems probable that more extensive collecting would show that by chance some of the more uncommon visitants were gathered in, while more common ones were not secured. The notes on the hummingbirds also could probably be considerably extended by a careful collection of specimens.

The paper should be very useful in many ways. It is a reliable record of present conditions in a rapidly changing region; students of life-histories of birds, and of dis-